

CONGRESSMAN **JESSE L. JACKSON JR.**

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For Immediate Release
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Congressman Jackson Mourns Death of Ted Kennedy

Congressman Jesse L. Jackson Jr. today issued the following statement upon learning of the death of his longtime colleague, Massachusetts Senator Edward "Ted" Kennedy:

"Ted Kennedy lived one of the most extraordinary lives in American political history. He was the last brother of America's royal family; one of our all-time great senators; and a champion for human rights. His legislative accomplishments have touched and improved the lives of virtually everyone who lived in this great country for the past half a century.

"A consummate public servant, Ted Kennedy's human experience took him through deep valleys to majestic mountaintops. Through it all, he was undeniably a born leader, a proud liberal, a gifted legislator, and a great friend. It is ironic that, at the time of his death, the No. 1 topic of national debate is his lifelong pursuit of health care reform.

"I was deeply honored to work with the Senator on legislation to elevate the National Institute of Health's Office of Research on Minority Health to the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities. And, as a young representative, I was humbled to receive a call from Senator Kennedy inviting me to serve on the advisory panel at the Institute of Politics at the Harvard Kennedy School.

"Like great leaders, Senator Kennedy was partisan and bipartisan, passionate and compassionate, and a leader who followed the people.

"In the end, he will be forever remembered for giving much more to this world than he took from her; for carrying the Kennedy torch for so long; and for being a good man.

"My prayers and condolences are with his wife, his children, and the entire Kennedy family."

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